

Donald Meyer
RR-2 Box 37
Superior NE 68978
402-225-4195
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Country of Origin Labeling Program
Agriculture Marketing Service USDA
STOP 0249 Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington D.C. 20250-0249

Comments concerning Concerning Country of Origin Labeling Programs

I am a beef producer in South central Nebraska. I believe Country of Origin labeling should be implemented using existing programs that already require country of origin certification. All livestock now being imported already have recording by USDA as to numbers and volume. It would be necessary to brand any live animals as to country of origin and label or tattoo any meat or carcasses. This would seem to minimize cost. Any U.S. producer should be able to self certify to receive a born, raised and processed in the U.S. label.

It is important that the burden of proof of compliance be mainly on the processors as they are the main source of imported products. It will be necessary for U.S. producers to also be responsible and obligated to know the source of any purchased animals.

As a U.S. producer it behooves us to identify and stand behind our products as well as those foreign producers do stand behind their products.

Consumers have a right to know where their food is produced. Most all other consumer goods have a country of origin label.

When the Agriculture Marketing Service write the regulations for implementing country of origin labeling, it should follow as closely as possible to the intent of Congress when it was debated and passed in the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act. They should be written to minimize the cost of implementing and yet be effective in giving the consumer the right to know the source of their food.

Thank you for allowing citizen input on this matter

Respectfully yours

Ron Meyer